

Clip to October 14, 1967

2,398 U.S. PLANES DOWNED
OVER NORTH VIET NAM

VIETNAM

COURIER

October 16

1967

No 133

4th Year

REVIEWED
DECLASSIFIED

INFORMATION WEEKLY - E.O.: 46 Tran Hung Dao Street - Hanoi - D.R.V.N. - Tel. 3841

SOUTH VIETNAM

2nd CONGRESS OF HEROES, MODEL FIGHTERS AND GALLANT COMBATANTS OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S L.A.F. VIVID EXPRESSION OF THE WILL TO FIGHT AND TO DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS

REPORTAGE ON THE OPENING SESSION

(Pages 4-5)



President Nguyen Huu Tho delivers the opening speech

OPENING SPEECH OF PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO

Dear Comrades,

On behalf of the President of the South Viet Nam People's National Committee, I wish to convey warm greetings to the Second Congress of Heroes, Model Fighters and Gallant Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's Liberating Armed Forces.

Our Congress opens at a time when we are recording big victories, marking the rapid growth of our armed forces and people over the

past two years. Following the brilliant victories of last year's dry and rainy seasons, this dry season, the heroic South Viet Nam armed forces and people have maintained their initiative on the battlefields, continually attacked the enemy and scored the greatest successes so far in the military, political and diplomatic fields, driving him into a more serious quandary and passive position. Those tremendous successes of our armed forces and people bear a consider-

able strategic significance as they repeatedly foiled the very important initial steps of the American aggressors' "limited war". The U.S. "aggression strategy" — "search and destroy" and "pacification" — have come to a lamentable grief. Not only did the enemy fail to attain his strategic objective, he received telling counter-blows. With a 1,200,000 strong army, he could not wrest back the initiative on the battlefield, but lapsed further into strategic pas-

sivity and an ever more defensive position. All his large-scale operations failed; his combat losses were extremely low; the number of his casualties kept increasing while his losses in war means was very heavy and his tactics had become simple. Thus, in actual fighting we better know the strong and weak points of the U.S. expeditionary troops and better realize the immense strength of people's war. From this basis we have drawn valuable experiences, improved our people's war strategy and tactics, and have more clearly the laws governing the development of the national liberation revolution in South Viet Nam, which makes all our armed forces and people more confident in their capabilities to fight and defeat the U.S.

rapidly towards complete defeat; when the army and people of our blood secked anti-nationalists responding to President Ho Chi Minh's "Resist U.S. aggression for national salvation" sacred appeal, are wholeheartedly supporting the struggle for the liberation of the South, have dealt repeated heavy blows at the invaders and brought about the destruction of 1,200 U.S. aircraft, where the countries in the socialist camp, the progressive people the world over, the anti-U.S. movement and the anti-imperialist movement in the United States itself are condemning and protesting against the aggressive actions of U.S. imperialism, warmly cheering up our people just resistance on our shoulders to shoulder with us, opposing the common enemy.

Ours is a congress of victors,

Our Congress opens after a historic period, a dramatic representative of the epoch of struggle against U.S. imperialism, in the forefront of which our people have the right to be proud. This congress does not only represent the cream of our armed forces but it is also the condensed, magnificent and vivid expression of the indomitable spirit of our compatriots in the South, of men and women who have the heart to fight and the determination to defeat the aggressor.

Clearly, it deserves to be called the congress of the resolve to fight and defeat U.S. aggressors.

The Extraordinary Congress of the Front held recently highly valued the military successes of our armed forces and people, highlighted the expansion of the people's liberation troops and the role of our people who deserve the confidence of our 31 million compatriots in both parts of the country.

(Continued page 7)

SECOND CONGRESS OF HEROES, MODEL FIGHTERS AND GALLANT COMBATANTS OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM LIBERATION ARMED FORCES



In these glorious, historic days of the nation, when the South Vietnamese people were enthusiastically welcoming the Patriotic Program of the South Viet Nam NLF, and when the gun reports of victorious attacks came in quick succession from both parts of the country, the Congress of Heroes, Model Fighters and Gallant Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's L.A.F. solemnly opened in a liberated area of South Viet Nam.

The bright sunshine of this Autumn morning was radiating joyfully on the brightly colourful forest of flags and flowers which were waving to the finest sons and daughters of the South Viet Nam Deco Wall, now entering the splendidly decorated meeting hall.

The Vietnamese heroes and heroines of the "fight-and-defeat Yanks" era were coming to the Congress. They brought names of joy and pride. Here were delegates from undaunted Quang Tri-Thua Thien, who had achieved glorious feats of arms at Dien Bien Phu, Lang Son, and Da Nang; and Highway 9. They included Lich, the woman guerrilla of the jungle mountains of Thua Thien who had struck fear into the hearts of the U.S. troops; Chieu Hoi, the spearhead against the enemy at Tan Le and Doc Mien; and Nguyen Viet Phong, who, fighting his first battle together with the guerrillas, had formed a full-size U.S. battalion for a whole day.

And here was the delegation from heroic and undaunted Central Trung Bo, bringing along the red scarf worn by many years ago. Many years ago, he stopped a whole convoy of the French aggressors in the 5th Zone, and

VIVID EXPRESSION OF THE WILL TO FIGHT AND TO DEFEAT THE AMERICAN AGGRESSORS

Reportage by GLAI PHONG Press Agency

now glooming with honour after the battle of Ea Giay-Van Tuong, Plei Me and Ea Nang. There was Quang Nam with the red banner "Loyal, courageous and stubborn, leading the fight to victory". It included Ta Quang Ty, an outstanding cadre of the local main force, on whom the combatants had placed their trust. He was a master, retreat cutter and head-on interceptor... Nguyen Van Truong, Van Hoa, who had 7 times won the title of first-class "Valiant anti-Yank fighter" in Thua Thien-Tan Son Nhat, fought south in the Western High Plateau, distinguished for his exploit in an assault on Pleiku during which he had thrown off his helmet and bared his skull as an American colonel and destroying platoons of aircraft; the little boy Kepaklong of heroic Plei Me, who had fought alongside the soldiers with only two arrows, as his application for voluntary military service; and Nguyen Con Tong, an outstanding representative of the South Viet Nam People's L.A.F., who had annihilated a U.S. multi-battalion paratroopers force at Thuan Man.

Attending the Congress was also the delegation from Southern Trung Bo, a delegation which had achieved splendid successes, with Bac Ai, the banner-bearer in bringing down the U.S. planes with incendiary bombs, with Bac Ai, Van Ban, a valiant company commander who had fought over 130 battles, and with Nguyen Van Son, who

had once attacked Da Lat city with resounding success.

The delegation from Eastern Nam Bo came to the Congress with the victories at Binh Gia, Dong Xoai, and Hoa Binh. It included Ta Quang Ty, an outstanding cadre of the local main force, on whom the combatants had placed their trust. He was a master, retreat cutter and head-on interceptor... Nguyen Duc Nghia, who vowed not to return home if the U.S. aggressors did not withdraw. He had stuck to his native land and destroyed 3 enemy armoured columns. Nguyen Van Nhieu, who had shot 7 G.I.'s dead and blasted an enemy tank.

The resounding victories won on various battlefields were a glorious feature of the great fighting. Present at the Congress were also delegates from various branches of activity and various armed services, including the People's Navy, People's Air Force, People's Artillery, People's Signal Corps, Army Medicine, Ordnance, Transport, Research and so on. Nguyen Van Hot had lived in a deep jungle for 3 years, and had been a true son of the people. He had then rushed forward to seize a bridge head; Nguyen Van Lee, who had wiped out 700 Americans in one night, and had won a record, setting an individual record in destroying the enemy; the good shot Nguyen Van Quang, who preferred to return home rather than live in a bent knee, who single handedly, had fought throughout most of Dien Bien Phu against thousands of Americans and who, with a jungle knife, led his unit to open 23 jungle trails totaling more than 100 km. and built 35 tunnels; some of these accommodated many types of vehicles.

The group of Dien Luu women transport workers had many times carried supplies to the front under enemy bombardments and shells, and once encircled by

many daring attacks on the enemy bases which horrified the enemy and found big trouble at home. The Cao Dai sect, who had stuck to their native land and destroyed 3 enemy armoured columns. Nguyen Van Nhieu, who had shot 7 G.I.'s dead and blasted an enemy tank.

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credit 75 American, satellite and puppet troops killed.

Central Nam Bo — the land of the imminent uprisings of Ap Bac, with loyal, courageous and staunch Long An where all people joined the fight, was represented by Tran Van Tai, Han, Hien, Hiep, who had overcome untold hardships, and worked hard to build up bases in various strategic hamlets and districts, and fought over 400 battles; and Nguyen Van The, a courageous fighter who, after being wounded in the battle, had undertaken hard training for months to be able to rejoin his unit and who had many exploits to his credit.

The delegation from Western Nam Bo brought to the Congress brilliant victories won in Can Tho, Vinh Thanh, Soc Trang, and Ben Tre. It included Doan Van Chia, the "people's engineer" of Can Tho renowned for his training of home-made weapons out of old bombs, steel-pellet and butterfly bombs dropped by the enemy: Nguyen Van Trong, who had led his unit to storm the Vinh Town, and Doan Thi Seo, leader of a woman guerrilla squad in Tra Vinh who had killed cruel agents with a sword.

The Congress welcomed the sons and daughters of heroic Ho Chi Minh city (Saigon) with undaunted Cu Chi. They included Bach Van Tran, a talented political leader, who had commanded many attacks deep in the enemy's rear, wiping out thousands of G.I.'s and destroying hundreds of aircraft, and Tran Van Dao, who, with his ingenuity and workmanship, had made 21 rifles and sub-machine guns and 10 small arms. When the Van army was forced to leave Saigon, they invented a kind of mine which could be easily handled by children as well as old folks to blast armoured cars. There was also Nguyen Van Tang, a commander who had made

the enemy, had fought stubbornly, without letting a single round of ammunition fall into the enemy's hands. Braving all dangers, they had saved wounded fighters for timely treatment at hospitals. Gummie Ha Minh Quang had destroyed over 30 armoured columns. Tran Van Linh, a signal platoon, had fought a height for two days running to maintain liaison and thus create conditions for others until an armistice came. Nguyen Huu Tieu, a medicalman, was known as the "devoted physician and tender mother of Castro". Tran Bo, Tran Van Linh, medical doctor, had worked with self devotion and, together with his medical team, cured over 1,000 wounded Americans, in a critical state.

ident. Muu Nguyen Thi Dinh Deputy Commander of the South Viet Nam L.A.F., Tran Quoc Vinh, Deputy Political Commander of the South Viet Nam People's L.A.F., Nguyen Trung Thanh, hero of the Liberation Army, Nguyen Van Lan, model fighter of Eastern Nam Bo, Nguyen Van Hinh, Banh Van Tran, model fighter of the Saigon-Gia Dinh area, Tham Minh Tam of the minority, who is in the mountainous Phuoc Long, model fighter of Central Trung Bo, Nguyen Ngoc Binh, model fighter of Central Trung Bo, and Nguyen Van Nhieu, minority model fighter of the Western High Plateaus, Ta Quang Ty and Nguyen Van Nghia, model fighters of the main forces units in Eastern Nam Bo and others.

The army band struck up and the women artists of the Liberation Army Son and Dam Ensemble marched forward to present fresh bouquets to members of the Presidium amidst prolonged and thunderous applause. The President presented a bouquet to the delegates. A moving sight came when President Nguyen Huu Tho, the presented a bouquet to comrade Phuoc Linh, a girl from the rugged mountains of Quang Tri-Tua Thien, and Muu Nguyen Cuu Dinh presented another to Nguyen Van Nhieu, the youngest member of the delegation. The young girl was heard quivering over a mass of roses, held tightly the hands of the Deputy Political Commander of the South Viet Nam People's L.A.F. and the President.

With such the Phuoc Linh man mastered their best techniques, fearlessly fighting to kill more people and catch, how to destroy more villages and crops; they must at all costs improve their napalm and fragmentation bombs, set up an effective electronic barrier, find new ways to burn the Viet Cong.

Wherever in the free zone of South Viet Nam here as everywhere else in the free zone napalm, phosphorus, fragmentation bombs may be rained from the sky at any time; people are not afraid of death, they do not shrink from the most terrible sacrifices. The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation meets in an extraordinary emergency. Faces are relaxed, discussions go on in a calm atmosphere; opinions are carefully weighed without anything like a sharp clash of views. One would think that among them there are no women. U.S. aircraft do not exist! The Political Programme adopted at the Congress not only deals with the present struggle but also tackles problems of the future: a programme worked out by men carrying on their shoulders the weight of the revolution.

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